

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

Ridgetop Group Inc

Arizona Manufacturing Extension Partnership

Prognosis Looks Good for Ridgetop Group Inc.

Client Profile:

Ridgetop Group Inc., is an engineering, research and development company specializing in electronic prognostics and reliability Built In Self Tests (BIST) which predict the remaining useful life of components so that they can be replaced or repaired before they malfunction. Much of Ridgetop's work has been used for military applications like warning devices that alert fighter pilots of potential equipment failures to keep things up and running. The military sector continues to be a primary focus of the firm. This world leader in prognostics technology research is located in Tucson, Arizona, and was founded in 2000 for the purpose of developing revolutionary design tools and licensed Intellectual Property (IP) for electronic applications. Ridgetop Group Inc., currently employs 25 highly skilled and experienced engineers and research specialists.

Situation:

Ridgetop knew the potential that existed for them to diversify their technology from primarily military contracts to uses in the commercial electronic equipment segment. As a small technology company, such a major transition would require their getting some professional help. The Arizona Manufacturing Extension Partnership (Arizona MEP), a NIST MEP network affiliate, was contracted by the Northern Arizona Council of Governments (NACOG), to deliver a program called MEP U.S. DOL H-1B Skills Technology Training Program. The Arizona MEP would be administrator of the grant and find employers and employees to work with various partners, consultants, professors and industry experts to get the training and acquire the knowledge that they needed.

Solution:

Ridgetop Group Inc. got involved with Arizona MEP and the NACOG program to help with their transition to the commercial market. Arizona MEP brought in consultants to assist them in developing a strategic business plan and to help with marketing and commercialization. Through this program, Ridgetop was also able to determine that the automobile industry was the most viable commercial sector for them to take their first steps into.

Results:

- * Developed a strategic business plan.
- * Diversified by transitioning from military contracts to automobile industry.

Testimonial:

"Our technology has a variety of safety applications for cars, like predicting degradation of anti-lock breaking systems and electronically alerting the driver or their mechanic of the problem before it occurs. Thanks to the Arizona MEP H-1B program we are now working with a major auto manufacturer on ways to implement our technology into their vehicles. Without NACOG and the Arizona MEP we

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would be months or years away from where we are now and wouldn't have tapped into what is a very promising growth opportunity for our company."

Doug Goodman, President and CEO